FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 9/29/76

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Via AIRTEL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 9/20/76.

A review of the indices and files of the Memphis Office revealed that Memphis files contained the following information concerning EDWARD REDDITT:

Memphis serial 157-1868-5 is a memorandum dated 5/19/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING, INC.; RM." Attached to this memorandum is a letter written by Lt. R. J. TURNER, Memphis PD, to Inspector G. H. PROCTOR, Community Relations Bureau, Memphis PD, dated 3/18/69 captioned "MEMPHIS COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP TRAINING SEMINAR AT PARIS, TENN., 3/16/69." According to this letter, approximately 52 persons representing various organizations in the Memphis area participated in the seminar at which the principal topic discussed was racial affairs and methods to improve race relations in the city of Memphis. Det. ED REDDITT of the Memphis PD participated in this seminar. An LHM prepared by the Memphis Office captioned "MANPOWER EDUCATIONAL AND MANAGERIAL TRAINING CORPORATION, MEMPHIS, TENN.; RM," dated 8/1/69 referred to this seminar; however, Det. REDDITT's name was not mentioned in this LHM. The Bureau was furnished 11 copies of this LHM, and copies were disseminated to the U. S. Attorney, Memphis, U. S. Secret Service, Memphis, and regional offices of military intelligence.

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Memphis serial 157-1067-491 is a newspaper clipping taken from the 10/14/68 issue of the Memphis Press-Scimitar, a daily newspaper published in Memphis, Tenn. This article is captioned "Police Center Getting Aid from Ex-Adversaries: Invaders," by BARNES CARR. This article refers to Det. E. E. REDDITT, who was placed in charge of a Community Relations office operated by the Memphis PD in an attempt by the PD to improve slum conditions at the grass-roots level in Memphis. No dissemination has been made by the Memphis Office regarding this information.

Memphis serial 157-2106-1 is a newspaper article entitled "Black Caucus on Community, Police Relations Formed," which was published 6/10/69 in the "Washington Afro American." According to this article, a national black caucus on police-community relations was organized to assist in implementing the Kerner Commission report. It was established during the 15th annual Police-Community Relations Institute at Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich., in 5/69. EDWARD REDDITT of Memphis, Tenn., was one of 15 conveners of this caucus. The Memphis Office has not disseminated this information.

Memphis serial 62-1637-33 is a newspaper clipping entitled "'Cancerous' Campus Violence Assailed," which appeared in the 5/2/69 issue of the Memphis Press-Scimitar. According to this article, LEON JAWORSKI, a Houston attorney and former member of the President's Commission on Causes and Prevention of Violence was the principal speaker at a Law Day dinner of the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association at Memphis, Tenn., on 5/1/69. At this dinner Warrant Officer EDWARD REDDITT of the Memphis PD was presented the annual Liberty Bell Award for contributions he had made as director of the Police Service Center in Memphis. This information has not been disseminated by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-284-416 is a memorandum to the SAC dated 8/26/68 captioned "DESEGREGATION OF EMPLOYMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICE FACILITIES, MEMPHIS, TENN." Attached to this memorandum is a letter dated 8/7/68 captioned "BELLEVUE AND MC LEMORE SHOPPING COMPLEX," which was prepared

y Det. BEN J. WHITNEY and Det. E. E. REDDITT, Community Relations Bureau, Memphis PD, for W. E. ROUTT, Assistant Chief, Planning, Research, Inspections and Training Bureaus, Memphis PD. This letter sets forth information regarding the PD's Community Relations Bureau and the interest therein by representatives of the U. S. Civil Rights Commission and Community Relations specialists of the U. S. Department of Justice. Information is set forth regarding Det. E. E. REDDITT's explanation to these representatives of the work of the Memphis PD's Police Youth Program. No dissemination of this information was made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-556-781 is a newspaper article entitled "Community and Generation Gap Bridged by Police Relations Unit," by CHARLES RAIDEN which was published in the 8/10/68 issue of The Commercial Appeal, a daily newspaper published in Memphis, Tenn. This article contains information regarding the Memphis PD's Community Relations Bureau and the Bureau's program called the Police Youth Program. Det. E. E. REDDITT, Assistant Director of the Community Relations Bureau, was interviewed and furnished background information and examples of the work being conducted by the Community Relations Bureau through the Police Youth Program. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-556-912 is a newspaper article entitled "Police Open Service Office 'to Let People Know Us'" by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, which was published in the Memphis Press-Scimitar on 10/3/68. This article contains information regarding the opening of the first Memphis PD Service Office in the South Memphis area. According to this article, Lt. REDDITT was praised by Police Director FRANK HOLLOMAN as the driving force behind police service offices. The Memphis Office has made no dissemination of this information.

Memphis serial 157-1168-Sub 109 is a newspaper article entitled "'Helping Hand' Wins Applause for Policeman," which appeared in the 5/2/69 issue of The Commercial Appeal. According to this article, Warrant Officer EDWARD ESTES REDDITT, Supervisor of the Police Service Center, was presented the annual Liberty Bell Award by the Memphis and Shelby County Bar Association on 5/1/69. This award is

ade to the person who has done the most to promote respect for law and order during the past year. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 157-1168-Sub 90 is a newspaper article entitled "It's Nearer: Day Care Center for Mothers Now on Welfare," by KAY PITTMAN BLACK, which was published 2/21/69 in the Memphis Press-Scimitar. According to this article, ED REDDITT, a warrant officer in charge of the Police Service Center in Memphis, has been active in efforts to obtain funds and a location for a day care center for mothers who are on welfare. He had obtained the services of two dentists and was seeking donations for funds to provide food and other items needed in connection with this promotion. No dissemination of this information has been made by the Memphis Office.

Memphis serial 44-1987-Sub E-1090 is a memorandum prepared by Departmental Attorney J. HAROLD FLANNERY for Mr. POLLAK on 9/17/68 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, SUBJECT; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VICTIM; CONSPIRACY AGAINST RIGHTS, CIVIL RIGHTS," On page six of this memorandum Mr. FLANNERY reported that in 8/68 BILL SARTOR identified E. E. REDDITT as the Negro policeman who was removed from his assignment at the fire station located near the Lorraine Motel at about 5:00 P.M. on the day that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated. This page also contains a paragraph regarding two Negro firemen who were removed from the station a day or two before Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was assassinated. The names of these firemen are not listed in this memorandum. This memorandum was furnished to the Memphis Office as an enclosure to Bureau airtel dated 9/26/68 captioned "MURKIN." This memorandum has not been disseminated by the Memphis Office; however, as instructed by the Bureau the contents of it were evaluated and two LHM's were prepared by the Memphis Office based on the evaluation. One of these LHM's was prepared on 11/5/68 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY." This memorandum does not contain any information regarding EDWARD REDDITT, W. B. RICHMOND, or FLOYD NEWSUM. A second LHM under the same caption was prepared on 11/21/68 and

contains information regarding REDDITT, RICHMOND, and NEWSUM. Information regarding REDDITT is set forth on pages 30, 31, and 32. Information regarding FLOYD NEWSUM is set forth on page 31. Information regarding W. B. RICHMOND is set forth on page 30. The information regarding REDDITT, RICHMOND, and NEWSUM set forth in this LHM was furnished by Inspector G. P. TINES, Intelligence Unit, Memphis PD. On 11/18/68, REDDITT and RICHMOND, both police officers, were assigned to Memphis Fire Station, Engine House No. 2, located at Butler and Main Streets, Memphis, approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders" a Memphis black power group, a number of whom were rooming at the Lorraine Motel. Prior to the time that REDDITT and RICHMOND were physically placed in the fire station, a Negro fireman named FLOYD E. NEWSUM was transferred because he had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. On 4/4/68, Det. REDDITT was removed from his assignment at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House No. 2, leaving RICHMOND at his post. REDDITT was removed due to the receipt of a telephone call on 4/4/68 by PHILIP MANUEL, Chief Investigator for Sen. MC CLELLAN's Senate investigating committee, Washington, D. C., reporting that information had been received by that committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis PD was to be killed. Due to REDDITT's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in Memphis in February and March, 1968, REDDITT had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector TINES, believing that the telephone call received by the MC CLELLAN committee, was another threat directed against REDDITT, ordered REDDITT's removal from his post at Engine House No. 2 for REDDITT's protection.

A review of the indices and files of the Memphis Office revealed no information identifiable with Police Officer W. B. RICHMOND or Fireman FLOYD NEWSUM other than that set forth in this LHM.

A review of the indices and informant files revealed no additional information regarding threats against REDDITT.

A review of the indices and informant files of the Memphis Office revealed no information that FBI informants had told the Memphis PD that REDDITT had shown some sympathy for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's cause by encouraging striking garbage workers, who were being supported by KING's non-violent marches, to stay away from work.

A copy of the LHM prepared by the Memphis Office on 11/21/68 referred to above was furnished to PHIL M. CANALE, JR., who was then State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn., on 1/21/69. No further dissemination of this memorandum has been made by the Memphis Office.

The Memphis Office is not preparing an LHM containing results of a review of the indices and files because pertinent information regarding EDWARD REDDITT, W. B. RICHMOND, and FLOYD NEWSUM has already been reported in a form suitable for dissemination, namely Memphis LHM dated 11/21/68 referred to above. This LHM incorporates all information available to the Memphis Office regarding RICHMOND and NEWSUM and the remaining information set forth in Memphis files regarding REDDITT involves his activities with the Memphis PD in their community relations program.